State of Vermont

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March 27, 1997

MICHAEL RICKER
FACILITIES OPERATIONS
NORWICH UNIVERSITY
ROUTE 12
NORTHFIELD VERMONT 05663

RE: Site Management Activity Completed, Norwich University: Power Plant Northfield, Vermont (Site #94-1703)

Dear Mr. Ricker:

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Sites Management Section (SMS) has reviewed The Johnson Company, Inc. *"Site Investigation - Underground Storage Tanks (USTs)"* report dated February 1995 for the above referenced site. This investigation was conducted to investigate a fuel oil release from the two (2) 30,000-gallon #6 fuel oil USTs. The contamination was discovered during a release investigation conducted on all USTs at the Norwich Campus. During the investigation of the USTs at this site, a soil sample collected from approximately 12 feet below ground surface (bgs) exhibited peak volatile organic compound concentrations of 129 parts per million (ppm), as measured by a photoionization detector (PID).

To further investigate, an attempt was made to install groundwater monitoring wells, but no groundwater was encountered even above bedrock at 75 feet bgs. To document the extent of contamination, a moist soil sample was collected from soils overlying the bedrock for laboratory analysis. An additional soil boring was completed approximately five (5) feet from the USTs. Soils were continuously screened, and peak PID readings of 185.6 ppm were encountered at 15 feet bgs. PID concentrations decreased with depth, and were non-detectable by 25 feet bgs. At this depth, a second soil sample was collected for laboratory analysis. Laboratory analysis of both soil samples indicated no evidence of petroleum contamination. Based on the current conditions at this site, the SMS has determined that this site is now eligible for a SMAC (Site Management Activity Completed) designation. This means that the SMS has determined the following:

- the two 30,000-gallon USTs have been tightness tested using a tracer test with no indication of a leak from either tank;
- risk of direct contact with soil contamination is minimized by the depth of soil contamination which appears limited to a relatively narrow soil horizon from approximately 10 to 17 feet bgs;

- groundwater was not encountered during this investigation, and is not likely threatened by the release; and

- any residual contamination does not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.

Based on these findings, the SMS has determined that site management activities have been completed. The completion of these activities does not release Norwich University of any past or future liability which may arise from the petroleum contamination originating from the #6 fuel oil USTs at the Power Plant site. It does mean that the SMS is not requiring any additional work be performed in response to the contamination which was discovered at this site. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me or Matthew Moran at (802)-241-3888.

Sincerely,

George Desch, Chief
Sites Management Section

cc: Northfield Selectboard
DEC Regional Office
Bradley Wheeler, The Johnson Company, Inc.

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